

Minutes

—of the—

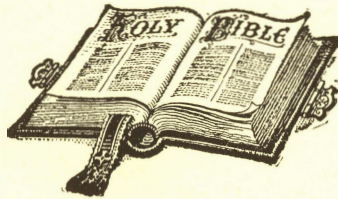
Fifty-Eighth Annual Session

—of—

Friendship Association

—of—

***Old Regular Baptist
The Church of Jesus Christ***



Held With The

Burks Memorial Church

HURLEY, VIRGINIA

AUGUST 23, 24, 25, 1974

Moderator	Elder Morgan Belcher
Assistant Moderator	Elder Cecil Belcher
Clerk	Brother Donald Stiltner
Assistant Clerk	Brother Harold Phillips

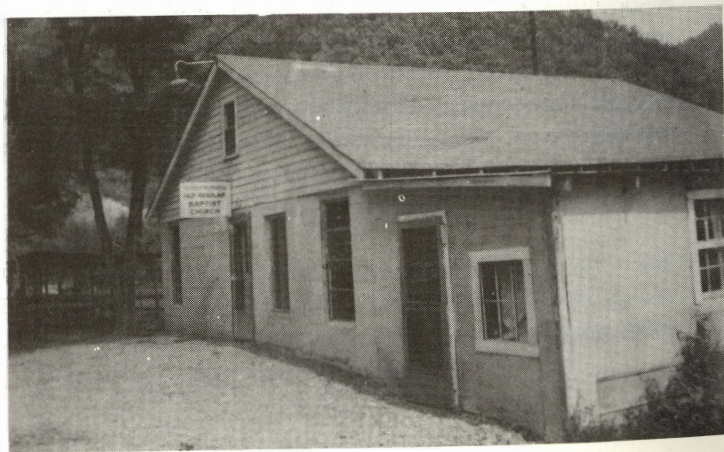
Resolved that our next Association will be held with The Little Vine Church at Big Four, McDowell County, West Virginia, to begin at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on Friday before the Fourth Saturday in August, 1975, and continuing the two following days. Elder H. A. Lane is to preach the Introductory Sermon and Elder Elbert Justice will be his alternate.



FROM
ELKHORN CHURCH IN 1854

120 Continuous Years
In The Same Faith
And Practice
Of The
Old Regular Baptist

TO
BURKS MEMORIAL CHURCH IN 1974



History Of Burks Memorial Church

The Burks Memorial Church, located on Lesters Fork of Knox Creek, Hurley, Buchannon County, Virginia.

This Church was given off as an arm from the Little Vine Church, January 27, 1973, composed of the following members; Elder Cloyd Bailey, Deacons, Willie and Oliva Burks, Brothers Robert Burks, Tom Potter, George Justus, Sisters Betty Justus, and Elizabeth Prater. These Eight members though small in number had faith in God that if they could be organized into a legal working body that God would add to their number; and so in that faith the Little Vine Church dismissed this arm to be organized into an independent Church Body; also a Presbytery was chosen consisting of Elders Morgan Belcher, Harold Burks and Everette Marrs, these members after being examined by said presbytery agreed unanimously to adopt the Articles of Faith, Rules of Decorum, of the Friendship Association.

And since their legal organization God has wonderfully blessed them under the able leadership of Elder Harold Burks, whom they chose to be their first Moderator, and in less than two years have grown to a membership of 36.

The manner in which they cared for this the 58th session of the Friendship Association will be long remembered, the brethren made every arrangement for the seating and comfort of the delegation and crowd, the sisters labored so diligently to feed and lodge the visitors and throughout the business and worship of the entire three days it seemed that Gods Spirit could be felt in all our undertakings.

The Church though young in organization yet its progeny goes back through the years in an unbroken chain of the Churches and Associations of the Old Baptist Faith, who have stood against every adversary and have steadfastly contended that the Church is a seperated people, and that Christ is the head and Governor, the giver of eternal life, the fountainhead of its peace and that, no man can become a legal member except those that have believed the Gospel of their Salvation and came through a legal administer of the Church.

PROCEEDINGS

Of The Fifty Eighth Annual Session Of The Friendship Association of Old Regular Baptists

The Friendship Association of Old Regular Baptists of Jesus Christ met with the Burks Memorial Church, August 23, 24, and 25 1974 at Hurley, Virginia.

After singing several of the old songs of Zion, the services were introduced by Elder Bryce Phillips, and prayer by same, after which the Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder Claude Conn who used for a text, 1st Kings, Chapter 18, Verse 21, and Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Ba'al then follow him, and the people answered him not a word. He was blessed to deliver a wonderful sermon.

The delegates from the several churches then assembled at the church house. After singing, the services were sweetly introduced by Elder John F. Whitt an old faithful soldier of 90 years of age.

Then our Moderator called the Association to order and we proceeded to business in the following order:

1. Called for the letters from the several churches. The same were received and the delegates seated in council and the queries and requests were referred to the committee on arrangements.

2. The Association then organized by electing Elder Morgan Belcher, Moderator; Elder Cecil Belcher, Assistant Moderator; Brother Donald Stiltner, Clerk; Brother Harold Phillips, Assistant Clerk.

3. Called for newly constituted churches and received none.

4. The Rules of Decorum were read and members admonished to adhere to them.

5. Called for Corresponding letters from our Sister Associations and received the following;

- A. Thornton Union-with the following delegates, Elder Raymond Collins, Brothers Bern Amburgey, Tilden Batts, and Melvin Blaid.

- B. Cumberland-with the following delegates: Elder Lester Baker, Ralph Potter, Danny Baker, Brothers: Sam Eversole, Bascome Combs and Donny West.

- C. Mountain Liberty-with the following delegates: Elders Elmer Church, Spencer Burks, Howard Colley, Basil Bailey, Evans Bailey, Erwin O'Quinn, Tyree Church, Brothers: Clyde Owens, Monroe Slone, Virgil Cline, Markus Ramey, and Eugene Owens.

6. Called for Transients, Ministers and Members and received none.
7. Agreed by motion and second that the Moderator make all temporary appointments during this session of the Association.
8. It was ordered by motion and second that we correspond with: Thornton Union, Cumberland, and Mountain Liberty Associations.
9. Appointed a Committee on Ministry consisting of one delegate from each church with the entire delegation from the Burks Memorial Church to arrange the ministry for Friday evening and Saturday. The Committee arranged the following Elders to preach: Friday evening: 1st Elder Ralph Potter, 2nd Elder Basil Bailey, 3rd Elder Howard Colley Saturday: 1st Elder Danny Baker with prayer by Elder Robert Lane; 2nd Elder Lester Baker, 3rd Elder Raymond Collins.
10. The Clerks were appointed by the Association to write the corresponding letters to the Sister Associations.
11. Appointed a Committee on arrangements consisting of one delegate from each church, with the Moderator, Clerks and corresponding Delegates and Transients, Ministers and Members to arrange the business for Saturday.
12. Who will entertain the Committee? Brother Willis Burks
13. By motion and second, we adjourned until nine o'clock Saturday morning.

Saturday Morning, August 24, 1974

Met pursuant to adjournment and after singing by the congregation services were introduced by Elder H. A. Lane and prayer by Elder Cecil Belcher. Then we proceeded with the following business:

1. Called the roll and marked the absentees.
2. Called on Committee on arrangements. Report was received and committee discharged.
3. Appointed a Committee on Finance consisting of: Jim Day, Jimmy Blankenship, and Ivan Phillips.
4. Called on Treasurer to report. His report is as follows:

Balance brought forward	1,421.54
Received from Churches	1,353.55
Received for Pictures	31.00

TOTAL\$2,806.09
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DISBURSEMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

Clerk and Treasurer	\$75.00
Assistant Clerk and Rec. Secretary	40.00
Moderator	25.00
Traveling Expense to Assoc.	30.00
Printer's Fee	885.90
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,055.90
BALANCE ON HAND	\$1,750.19

5. Called on Ministers to report on attending Union meetings and associations last year. The reports were received and failures excused.

6. Appointed a Committee to arrange the preaching for Sunday, who arranged the following Elders to preach: 1st. Elder Mervyn Riffe with prayer by Elder Harold Burks, 2nd. Elder Evans Bailey, 3rd. Elder Morgan Belcher.

7. The letters to the Sister Associations were read and approved and delegates appointed as follows:

Thornton Union-Elders Andy Baker, Bryce Phillips, Claude Conn, Elbert Justice, Cecil Belcher, Morgan Belcher, Harold Burks, Jim Justice. Brothers; Clayton Baker, Woodrow Morrison, Eddie Kraft, Donald Stiltner, Harold Phillips, George Ward, and Grover Street. Letter in the hands of Elder Morgan Belcher.

Cumberland-Elders Claude Conn, Morgan Belcher, Robert Lane, Cecil Belcher, Melvin Lane, Elbert Justice, Harold Burks, Alvis Lester, Brothers Woodrow Morrison, Eddie Kraft, Donald Stiltner, Jody Meadows, Jimmy Blankenship, Bobby Adams.

Letter in the hands of Elder Harold Burks.

Mountain Liberty-Elders Claude Conn, Elbert Justice, Andy Baker, Morgan Belcher, Harold Burks, Cecil Belcher, James Lane, and Jim Justice. Brothers; Woodrow Morrison, Charles B. Lester, George Ward, Denny Mullins, Lonnie Mullins, and Harvey Mullins. Letter in the hands of Elder Morgan Belcher.

8. Moved and seconded that all obituaries along with memorials and funerals presented to the clerk before going to press be printed in these minutes.

9. Appointed ministers to attend Union meetings with the churches as shown under that heading.

10. Ordered that the Circular Letter written by Elder Melvin Lane be published in these minutes and that Elder Wilbur McKinney write the Circular Letter for next year.

11. Ordered that the Association have 2,000 minutes printed and that the clerk supervise the printing and the distribution of the same.

12. Elder Raymond Collins, from the Thornton Union Association, advised that the Mt. Zion Association of United Baptist and Thornton Union are now corresponding. Brother Collins suggested that Friendship Association consider a correspondence with them also. After some discussion it was moved and seconded that the Moderator appoint a committee to attend the Mt. Zion Association. The committee is charged to witness the working of the Association, to get an understanding of their doctrine and practice, and make recommendations at the Friendship's next session relative to corresponding with the Mt. Zion in the future. The Moderator appointed Elders Cecil Belcher, Elbert Justice and himself.

13. It was moved and seconded that a picture of the oldest organized church in the association, The Elkhorn church, be placed at the top of the first page and that we honor the hosting church, Burks Memorial at the bottom of the first page. A short history of the hosting church is to be printed also.

14. The request by the Little Vine Church for the Association next year was granted.

15. Resolved that our next Association be held with the Little Vine Church at Big Four, McDowell County, W.Va., to begin at 10:00 A. M. on Friday before the fourth Saturday in August 1975, and continuing the two following days. Elder H. A. Lane was appointed to preach the introductory sermon and Elder Elbert Justice be his alternate.

Elder Elmer Church from the Mountain Liberty Association closed the Association with some warm and spirited words and a sincere and humble prayer.

Elder Morgan Belcher, Moderator
Elder Cecil Belcher, Assistant Moderator
Brother Donald Stiltner, Clerk
Brother Harold Phillips, Assistant Clerk

Sunday Morning, August 25, 1974

The Church house was filled with a friendly and attentive congregation. God blessed the crowd to sing a few of the beautiful old songs of Zion after which the services were introduced so sweetly by Elder Mervyn Riffe with a sincere prayer by Elder, Harold Burks. Next Elder Evans Bailey, from Mountain Liberty Association, who used no particular text, was blessed through God's Revelations to bring many wonderful things to our minds.

Elder Morgan Belcher, our beloved Moderator, who used for a text 2nd Corinthians, chapter 6, verse 2. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" was richly blessed with God's spirit to expound upon the sweet goodness of God's mercy and amongst much rejoicing closed the 58th session of the Association.

The Friendship Association is most grateful to the Burks Memorial Church for the outstanding manner in which it hosted this Association. God's abounding love was evident among the brethren, sisters and friends during the three days. May God continue to bless you.

CIRCULAR LETTER

Brethren:

In submission to you brethren, I will attempt with much needed help to write this circular letter for your inspection.

Turn with me now to the book of Matthew third chapter, verses 1, 2, and 3. In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

After the temptation in the wilderness, Jesus hearing of the imprisonment of John, went to Galilee, and there begin to preach, and to say, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 4:17.

Some well intentioned people advocate that the kingdom here mentioned was first offered to the Jewish nation or Israel and was rejected by them so all these are prophetic quotations and apply to that time after the tribulation when Jesus then reigns on the throne of David and this kingdom then becomes a fact.

The kingdom that our Lord spoke of is not something just to be but something that is also present as in Matt. 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Now in the 13th Chapter of Matt. we have the parables concerning the kingdom of heaven. Although the 3rd. verse starts these parables with the Lord speaking, "Behold, a sower went forth to sow;" and mentions where the seeds fell and what became of them. In the 11th. verse the Lord answers why he was using parables, "Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven," Also, "Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom," Matt. 13:18-19.

Next in verse 24, another parable put he forth unto them saying, "The kingdom of heaven is liken unto a man which sowed good seed in his field;" verse 25 "But while men slept, his enemy came".....here we learn of the wheat and tares.

Again verse 31, "The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed....."

Then verse 33, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven"

Verse 44, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field;...."

Verse 45, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:..."

And verse 47, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind;"

All of these are in the present tense and not just future. However, from verse 37 through 43 our Lord explains the parables of the wheat and tares. He uses the present tense, past tense, and the future as if it were now. "The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares

are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world." Verses 39 and 40.

Also, we learn that the kingdom of heaven is his kingdom. Verse 41 "The son of man shall send forth his angels and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them that do iniquity;" This happens in the end of the world.

Though his kingdom is not of this world, it nevertheless is in the world. Jesus when he was before Pilate, said, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." John 18:36

Similarly, Jesus said his followers were not of this world. John 17:16 "They are not of the world even as I am not of the world" but verse 11 "...but these are in the world...."

So the presence of his kingdom cannot be denied. The fabric of its construction does not appear as a natural kingdom would. Even sinner friends and the world in general realizes a definite establishment that they cannot clearly see, but they know it is there.

Everyone that is a member of the church and has never been born again, whose experience was a natural one, thinking that a good life and good deeds would put them in a position for God to save them, are caught up in a snare and have become "...children of the kingdom...." and "shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matt. 8:12. These are not children of God. But some, the sincere, born again believers shall be separated finally from those that are not of divine birth. Matt. 25:1 "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish." The wise "Went in with him" and "the door was shut" to the foolish.

To all of you that are God's children, our Lord will return someday, and will reckon with us for our stewardship, whether we have fulfilled our duties as grace has instructed us. Matt. 25:14 "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey." Verse 19 "After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them."

Those of you still in sin, I beg you to repent - from a heart steeped in sorrow because of the burden of sin - to believe on Jesus Christ, who can forgive sin and give eternal life.

However, if you neglect the gift of God, you will work toward your own fateful end. You will receive wages for your work - and "the wages of sin is death."

"Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," so said the Lord.

Your servant,

Melvin Lane

MEMORIALS

June

FIRST SUNDAY- The Bethany Church. Everyone invited and welcome to come.

FIRST SUNDAY- The Guyandotte Church. Everyone is invited and welcome to come.

SECOND SUNDAY- The Elkhorn Church. Everyone is invited and welcome to come.

THIRD SUNDAY- At the Mullins Cemetery in the head of Ritter Hollow. Elders called: Elbert Justice, Jack Lester, Graham E. Riffe, Alvis Lester. Everyone is invited and welcome to come. Requested by the Roberts Family.

July

4TH OF JULY- Homecoming at Mervyn Riffe's and family, Falls Mills, Virginia.

Everyone is invited and welcome to come.

August

SECOND SUNDAY-The Cline Cemetery, Rt. 3, Bassett, Virginia. Elders called to attend: All preaching brethren along with Moderator of White Stone Church are invited to attend.

THIRD SUNDAY- The Tom Lester Cemetery on Greenbrier Creek near Panther, W.Va. Elders called to attend: Elder Claude Conn, Elbert Justice and Morgan Belcher.

September

THIRD SUNDAY- The Little Vine Church. Everyone invited and welcome to come.

FOURTH SUNDAY- Myrtle Valley Church. All preaching brethren of the same faith and order are invited to attend.

Union Meetings

April

SAND GAP-FOURTH SUNDAY- Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Melvin Lane, J. F. Whitt, John J. Rinehart, Morgan Belcher, Alvin Belcher, A. W. Rowe, Robert Lane, with Moderator and assistant Moderator.

May

PEN RIDGE-FIRST SUNDAY- Elders to attend: Cecil Belcher, H. A. Lane, Melvin Lane, Alvin Belcher, Robert Lane, George Steele, Mervyn Riffe, Wilbur McKinney, Bryce Phillips, Morgan Belcher, Harold Burks, Elbert Justice, James Lane, and Calvin Belcher.

NEW HOPE-SECOND SUNDAY- Elders to attend: Morgan Belcher, Cecil Belcher, A. W. Rowe, Everett Marrs, Alvin Belcher, H. A. Lane, J. F. Whitt, Wilbur McKinney, John J. Rinehart, Errie Lusk, John Whitt with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

LITTLE VINE-THIRD SUNDAY- Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, John J. Rinehart, James Lane, Robert Lane, Wilbur McKinney, Bryce Phillips, Melvin Lane, Elbert Justice, J. F. Whitt, Mervyn Riffe, Howard Colley, Raymond Collins.

STONEY CREEK- FOURTH SUNDAY- Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Bryce Phillips, Wilbur McKinney, Claude Conn, Cloyd Bailey, John J. Rinehart.

MYRTLE VALLEY-FOURTH SUNDAY- Elders to attend: Robert Lane, Howard Burks, Elbert Justice, Mervyn Riffe, Melvin Lane, Sherman Greer, Bryce Phillips, and Wilbur McKinney.

June

BETHLEHEM-FIRST SUNDAY- Elders to attend: H. C. Belcher, Cecil Belcher, H.A. Lane, Alvin Belcher, Melvin Lane, Robert Lane, Wilbur McKinney, Bryce Phillips, Sherman Greer, William Lester, John J. Rinehart, Edward Cline.

BURKS MEMORIAL-FOURTH SUNDAY- Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Alvin Belcher, Morgan Belcher, Cecil Belcher, Mervyn Riffe, Spencer Burks, Robert Lane, John J. Rinehart, Melvin Lane, Bryce Phillips, Elbert Justice, H. C. Belcher, Howard Colley, Clell Burks.

July

FRIENDSHIP-FIRST SUNDAY- Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Morgan Belcher, Cecil Belcher, J. F. Whitt, Paul Belcher, Everett Marrs, Melvin Lane, Robert Lane, John J. Rinehart, Edward Cline, Mervyn Riffe, Errie Lusk with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

LITTLE BETHEL-SECOND SUNDAY- Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, A. W. Rowe, J. F. Whitt, Bryce Phillips, Melvin

Lane, Robert Lane, Sherman Greer, Paul Belcher, Alvin Belcher, Errie Lusk, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

LITTLE SAMARIAH-SECOND SUNDAY- Elders to attend: Everett Marrs, Morgan Belcher, Alvin Belcher, Acy Cantrell, Alvin Lester, James Lane, Claude Conn.

WHITE STONE-SECOND SUNDAY- Elders to attend: Acy Cantrell, Arvil Whited, Mervyn Riffe, Morgan Belcher, Sherman Greer, Alvis Lester.

NEW ZION-THIRD SUNDAY- Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Alvin Belcher, Wilbur McKinney, Paul Belcher, J. F. Whitt, A. W. Rowe, Melvin Lane, Mervyn Riffe, Everett Marrs, Edward Cline, H. C. Belcher, Morgan Belcher, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

ANTIOCH-FOURTH SUNDAY- Elders to attend: Melvin Lane, Robert Lane, Bryce Phillips, James Lane, Morgan Belcher, Mervyn Riffe, Alvin Belcher, Wilbur McKinney, Elbert Justice, Calvin Belcher, Paul Belcher, Harold Burks, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

August

BETHANY-FIRST SUNDAY- Elders to attend: Melvin Lane, H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Alvin Belcher, James Lane, Robert Lane, Cloyd Bailey, Claude Conn, Mervyn Riffe, E. Graham Riffe, Everett Marrs, Wilbur McKinney, Calvin Belcher, Tarrun Steele, Bryce Phillips with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

GUYANDOTTE-FIRST SUNDAY - Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Elbert Justice, Robert Lane, Bryce Phillips, James Lane, Morgan Belcher, Alvin Belcher, J. F. Whitt, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

ELKHORN-SECOND SUNDAY - Elders to attend: J. F. Whitt, Morgan Belcher, John J. Rinehart, Wilbur McKinney, Bryce Phillips, Elbert Justice, Mervyn Riffe, Claude Conn, Harold Burks, Lester Baker, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

SWEET HOME-THIRD SUNDAY - Elders to attend: Morgan Belcher, James Lane, J. F. Whitt, Melvin Lane, Robert Lane, Bryce Phillips, Wilbur McKinney, John J. Rinehart, Mervyn Riffe, Calvin Belcher, Alvin Belcher with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. A Moderator and a Clerk shall be chosen by the members.
3. Only one member shall speak at a time. He shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he desires to speak.
4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any one, except the Moderator, until he is done speaking.

5. A speaker shall strictly adhere to the subject which is being discussed, and in no wise cast reflection on the brother who had spoken before him, or make remarks about his slips and imperfections, but shall fairly state his case as he can so as to convey his views and ideas.

6. No person shall abruptly break off from the Association or absent himself without permission from the Association.

7. No person shall speak more than three times on any one subject without permission from the Association.

8. No person shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the Association. No person shall whisper to another while any one is speaking publicly.

9. No member of this Association shall address another in any other terms or appellation than that of "Brother."

10. The Moderator shall not interrupt or prohibit any member from speaking until he gives his view and light on the subject discussed, unless the speaker violates the Rules of Decorum.

11. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as the Association requires.

12. The Moderator shall have the same right of speech that other members have; provided the chair be filled; he shall have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, then he may cast the deciding vote.

13. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly violate any of the rules of this decorum shall be reproved by the Association as it thinks proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in only one true living God, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one, equal in power, essence and glory.

2. We believe in the scriptures of the Old and New Testament, that they are written words of God, and that they are the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the free atonement of Jesus Christ; that He tasted death for every man, and that salvation is offered to all on the equal terms of the Gospel.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin and of man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature; therefore the Saviour is needed for our redemption.

5. We believe that sinners are called to repentance and that repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration are necessary, previous to literal baptism.

6. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace; for by grace, are ye saved through faith.

7. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, and that after regeneration they shall grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord.

8. We believe that baptism is an ordinance of the Church of Jesus

Christ on earth, and that the proper way to administer the ordinance is to immerse the candidate all over.

9. We believe that the Lord's Supper and feet washing are the commands of the Saviour, and that they should be kept up and practiced by His true believers until He comes again.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances and commands of the Gospel Church, except such as are legally baptized and ordained by the hands of a regular chosen presbytery.

12. We believe it to be the duty of all church members to contribute to the Association for the defraying of the necessary expense of the church, and to remember the poor according to their several abilities.

13. We believe that every doctrine that goes to encourage people to indulge in their sins or cause them to settle down on anything short of saving faith in Christ for salvation, is erroneous. Such doctrine will be rejected by us.

14. We believe that the Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful believers in Christ; that they have been baptized into the fellowship of the church; that they have put on Christ, and have agreed to keep up a Godly discipline according to the rule of the church.

15. We believe that Jesus Christ is the first resurrection from the dead, and that He lives forever, the head and king of the church.

16. None of the above articles shall be so considered as to hold with particular election and reprobation so as to make God partial, directly or indirectly, or to injure any of the children of men.

CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experiences, we, the Old Regular Baptists, the "Church of Jesus Christ", being baptized upon a profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches in order to perpetuate a union and communion among us and to keep the order and rules of an Association according to the following plan of government:

1. The Association shall be composed of the members chosen by the different churches in our union and sent to represent them in the Association; upon their producing letters from their respective churches, certifying to their appointment, they shall be entitled to a seat.

2. In the letter there shall be expressed their number in full fellowship, those received by letter, those baptized, dismissed, excluded, and deceased since our last Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord anything over God's heritage, nor shall they infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches of the union.

4. All matters coming before the Association shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

5. The Association, when convened, shall be ruled by a regular and proper decorum.

6. The Association shall have a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, a Clerk and an Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the delegates.

7. New churches may be admitted into the union when found to be orthodox and orderly upon examination; churches that desire to be admitted shall petition by letter and delegates; and every church in the union, after being admitted, shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

8. Every query presented to the Association by a church, being first debated in the church, shall be taken up by the Association.

9. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered by the Association.

10. We think it necessary and right to have a fund for the defraying of expenses of the Association; we think it is the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums as it thinks proper and send it by its delegates to the Association to be placed in the hands of a treasurer whom the Association selects. The treasurer shall be held accountable for all moneys placed in his hands, and shall use said money as the Association directs.

11. There shall be an Association book kept wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be recorded by the secretary whom the Association selects, and said secretary shall receive a compensation for his work.

12. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

13. The Association shall have power (1) To provide for the general union of the churches. (2) To observe inviolable a chain of union among the churches. (3) To give the churches all the necessary advice in matters of difficulty. (4) To inquire into the cause why the churches fail at any time to represent themselves into the Association. (5) To appoint any member or members, and with their consent to transact any business it thinks necessary. (6) To withdraw from any church in the union which shall violate the rules of the Association or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion. (7) To admit any orderly minister to our faith and order to a seat with us in our Association. (8) To designate a time and place for its next meeting so as to have it convenient for all the churches of the union as much as possible. (9) To adjourn and meet at any future time and place it thinks proper.

OBITUARIES

Stella Maude (Wood) Lester



Born November 21, 1927 Died August 21, 1974 She was the Daughter of Nancy a Wood McCloud who survives, she is also survived by her husband Isaac Ray Lester, four daughters and one son, three sisters and one brother.

Sister Maude made her confession of faith and was baptised into fellowship with the Stoney Creek Church the First Sunday in September 1962, and remained a member until death.

And as the Bible teaches us Man that is born of woman is but few days and full of trouble he cometh forth like a flower and is cut down, so in early life at the age of forty six years and ten months Sister Maude came to the appointment that is appointed to all men and surrendered in body to death, but we believe her soul rose triumphantly in the hands of the angels and went to that rest that is prepared for the children of God.

Harold Burks

Loney Elizabeth (Workman) Lane



Loney Elizabeth (Workman) Lane, born to Zack and Christine Workman, July 22, 1898, went to be with her beloved Jesus, June 19, 1974. She was married 60 years, 8 months and 6 days, to Moses Aaron Lane. To this union were born 16 children, one adopted daughter. (Five children preceded her in death) She joyfully carried concern and prayers for each of her children; 46 grandchildren, and 42 great-grandchildren.

This is in memory of our dearly beloved Mother, known by many as Lizzie Lane. It is being written with many mixed emotions. One of peace, and contentment because of her presence before the Savior she served and loved. Another of deep sadness and yes, selfishness, for we all wish she were here with us to give us the strength and faith she always gave so freely in times of need.

We all know she is going about her heavenly duties with joy and praises to God.

As our Daddy said "Jesus left her a path to follow, now she has left us a way to walk in daily life so we can join her. As her illness progressed she was as always, ready to meet her Lord and Savior. A dear sister in Christ, gave us a comforting remembrance.

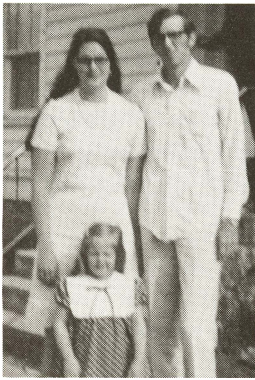
"God has a flower garden and he needed a perfect rose, so he chose our Mother.

Written by

Her daughter, Mrs. Bill (Bonnie) McDonald

Adopted daughter Mrs. Jim (Shelia) Jones

Smith (Joe) Riffe



With a sad aching heart and all the lonely feelings I will try with the help of the Lord to write this obituary of my beloved husband.

He was born June 30, 1946, the son of Mervyn E. Riffe and Eppie Cook Riffe. He also leaves behind 8 brothers and 2 sisters.

He was married to Roxanna Belcher Riffe July 5, 1969 and to this union was born one daughter, Michelle Dawn. Joe joined the church on Christmas Eve, 1967 and was baptized the last Sunday in Jan. 1968. He died six years later on the same day, (Jan. 28, 1974).

The last few days of his life he couldn't talk to me but he knew how to say what he wanted and how to get his point across. No matter when anyone came and asked him how he was, it was, "I'm just fine," even up to the last day of his life here on earth. If you have someone you love you should be good and kind to each other so if one of you have to leave the other, you will only have good thoughts and memories of the time you did have together. We kept the Lord with us when we were home and going on our many trips to Charlottesville. If you keep the Lord by your side there is nothing that you can't do. There will be love and strength in your heart you would never find without the Lord.

The memories of him we will always cherish. To his friends and loved ones I will say to live faithful, as he, for the Lord so we can all go home to Jesus together where there will be no more heartache.

Joe wrote a letter to an army buddy of his the day he joined the great army for the Lord. Quote: I just had to write and tell you that I have found a true solution to all my earthly troubles of mind and soul. I turned everything over to God. To Him I gave my life to do with as he pleases. It's really a wonderful feeling to know that now I can live again with God as my guide, unquote. I feel my husband wrote his own

obituary to this friend and I feel he lived his life for the Lord as his guide.

His loving wife,
Roxanna

Florence Murphy



By request and by the help of the Lord, I will write an obituary of Sister Florence Murphy. Her stay on earth was 71 years. She was the daughter of the late Paris and Nancy Puckett Lester and a life long resident of Ikes Fork, W.Va. She leaves to mourn the loss; her husband, Brother Blaine Murphy; one daughter, Wanda Kennedy, two sons, Buddy and Donald, three sisters, Thelma, Elsie and Grace; one brother, Ballard Lester.

She was married to Blaine Murphy Aug. 8, 1931 and was brought home from the funeral home on their 42nd wedding anniversary.

She joined the old Regular Baptist Church on Nov. 7, 1948, and was a true and faithful member all these many years. She loved to hear good singing and always seemed to be in the spirit of the Lord. I know that she is missed in the Bethany Church by all the friends and loved ones. She was like a mother to the church and always made everyone welcome in her home. But we are made to believe by the life that she lived and the teachings of God's word, that our loss is Heaven's gain. I would say to her children, sisters and brothers, if you want to see Sister Florence again, you must get ready this side of the River. Put your trust in Jesus, for he said, I am the way, the truth and the life, No man comes unto the Father but by me.

Written by an unworthy Brother
Elder Mervyn Riffe

Arvilla Lambert

By request of members of her family, I will try by the help of the Lord to write an obituary of their beloved mother.

She was born Feb. 26, 1895, and died January 10, 1974 making her stay on earth approximately 79 years.



She was the daughter of the late Soloman and Cindy (Simpson) Mullins. At a young age she married John Lambert and to them eleven children were born. Her husband and six children preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn the loss: One daughter, Ruby Mitchum;

four sons, Willie, Virgil, Barnie and Alvin; Twenty-eight grand-children,

a host of friends and relatives.

She took up membership with the Guyandotte Church on Herndon Heights and was faithful to attend as long as she was able. Due to illness of cancer, she was confined to bed in the home of her son, Virgil, for several months. She did much suffering but at the early dawn on the morning of January 10, 1974 the death angel visited the home and conveyed her spirit back to God who gave it. Her little frail body was laid to rest to return back to the dust of the earth from whence it came. On the resurrection morning this same spirit will reunite and bring forth a glorified body liken unto our Lords, and will ever be with the Lord. What a glorious promise that is to the children of God.

Now to her children and loved ones, that have already accepted Christ as your Savior and by his help to walk in a newness of life, just press on a little while longer. But to those that have not made your peace with God, do prepare to meet thy God and be a joint heir of Christ.

Let God make your robes pure and white in that precious blood that was shed on Calvary for one and all who will accept them. Then on that great day of all days for the Saints of God you too can be numbered with the happy family of God where the circle will never be broken. It will be peace, joy and happiness forever there with our loved ones, but most of all we'll meet our Savior face to face. Won't it be wonderful there having no more burdens and heartaches to bear. Oh how it makes me feel like traveling on.

She's just away for a little while, At rest in peaceful sleep And if she could only speak to us, She would tell us not to weep.

Written by as I trust a sister in Christ Jesus

Cora Bishop.

Ira Roberts

With a sad heart I will try to write an obituary of my dear husband, Ira Roberts, who passed away October 25, 1973. He was born December 17, 1911. He married Eliza Burks October 5, 1935, and to this union 7 children were born; 4 girls and 3 boys. Two girls preceded him in death.

He left his wife, 2 girls, 3 boys, father and mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law and a host of friends to mourn the loss.

He will not have to suffer any more. He went home to live with God.

A dad from us is gone, A voice we loved is still. A place is vacant in



our home, That can never be filled.
Dad we hope to meet you again with God.

Written by his wife
Eliza Roberts

Sylvania And Cleveland Robinette



The family got together with God's help to write an obituary of our dear mother and daddy. Oh, how we miss them both in our dreams. We know they are at rest in the arms of God. There is no way we can have them back with us, but if we live for the Lord, we all can be together again in that beautiful mansion God has prepared for us if we live for him and do his will.

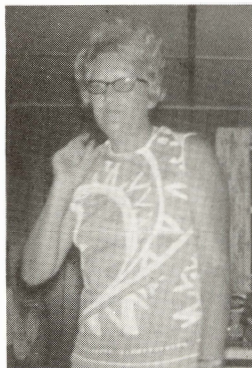
Mother was born April 12, 1886 and died May 2, 1968 making her stay on earth 82 years and 20 days. Three years and 16 days later, father passed away leaving us with broken hearts. Daddy was here for 86 years, 5 months, 16 days.

They both were members of the Bethany Church at Ikes Fork which they loved.

To them were born 9 children, three of which preceded them in death. Those remaining to mourn the loss are: Barbara Collins; Lawrence Robinette; Esther Justice; Clarence Robinette; Louise, Jude and Blanch Bishop. They are sadly missed by the family.

Written by daughters
Barbara and Louise

Lanada England



With much sadness and loving memories we will try to write the obituary of our beloved sister, Lanada England.

She was the daughter of the late John and Amanda England. She was born at Hensley, W.Va. on June 13, 1924 and departed this life on March 6, 1974.

Left to mourn the loss are five brothers and three sisters: Clarence, Ballard, Sherman, Elmer, Billy, Bessie and Lucy England and Betty King. Also, there are many relatives and a host of friends.

She was always a sweet, humble and moral person. She loved and

enjoyed doing things and helping friends and neighbors in any way she could. But she realized there was something else she must do, so she accepted Christ, repented and joined the Regular Baptist Church, November 4, 1973. She loved to read her Bible and attend church every chance she got. She seemed to be so thankful and happy that she had accepted Christ and was a member of the church.

Oh we all miss her so very very much. She was so sweet and dear to all of us, but God called her away, and honestly we feel our great loss is Heaven's gain.

Written by her
Brothers and Sisters

Deliah Francis Shrewsbury



With a sad and broken heart I will try to write the obituary of my dear wife. She was born April 21, 1891, and died January 11, 1974, making her stay on earth 82 years, 9 months, and 10 days. She was married to George W. Shrewsbury March 24, 1909, and to them were born three children; two sons, Oscar and Grover, and one daughter that preceded her in death at the age of two months, and one foster daughter Paulette Blankenship. She joined the Missionary Baptist Church at the age of sixteen and later came to the Regular Baptist Church in 1926. She

was a faithful member for as long as she could go and left many relatives and friends to mourn her loss.

Written by her husband,
George W. Shrewsbury

Homer E. Carr



With a sad and aching heart I will try to write an obituary of my husband, Homer E. Carr.

He was born May 1, 1906, departed this life Dec. 5, 1973. He was married to Pearl Lane and to this union were born 10 children, 5 boys and 5 girls, one boy preceded him in death.

He leaves a wife, nine children, 25 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, a host of friends and neighbors to mourn his death. He was a faithful church attender for years but when sickness over took him, he wanted to be in that number, so one night when Elder John J.

Rinehart visited him in the hospital he joined the Old Regular Baptist

Church and was baptized by Elder John J. Rinehart, and Elder Sherman Greer.

I want to say to our children if you want to be with Dad prepare to go to Heaven.

Our home is sad and lonely,

The voice I loved is still

A place is vacant in our home,

Which never can be filled.

Written by his lonely wife,
Pearl Carr

Delegates to the Association

ANTIOCH-Arnold Green, Gene Green, Edward Cline, Glen Morgan.

ELKHORN-Leonard Belcher, Jim Day, Ayres Belcher, Robert Lane, Harold Phillips

FRIENDSHIP-E. H. Buchannon, Marvin Phillips, Lacy Phillips, Bryce Phillips, Glen Phillips.

GUYANDOTTE-Ernest Lane, Paul Belcher, Walter Smith, Errie Lusk, Powell Lusk

LITTLE BETHEL- Ernest French, Clifford Farley, Delmar Buchannon, Elmer Persienne

LITTLE VINE-Leslie Belcher, Ralph Steele, Robert Steele, Denny Bishop, H. C. Belcher.

PEN RIDGE-Harvey Mullins, James Sizemore, Charles Craft, Dennie Mullins, Everette Sizemore,

SAND GAP-Ivan Phillips, Morris Bishop, Roy Bishop, Wilbur McKinney

BETHLEHEM-Frank Mann, Carroll Belcher, John J. Rinehart

NEW ZION-Sidney Dixon, Hiley Blankenship, Milburn Rinehart

NEW HOPE-Larry Nuckolls, Eddie Lane, Wesley Green

BETHANY-Blain Murphy, Arnold Fuller, Woodrow Morrison, Elmer England, Hubert Burks

MYRTLE VALLEY-Jimmy Blankenship, William Blankenship, Arnold Robinette, Dennis England, Ernest McKenzie

LITTLE SAMARIAH-Andy Baker, John Justice, Clayton Baker, Elizabeth Roberts, Elbert Justice

STONEY CREEK-Charles Dowd

SWEET HOME-Doug Riffe, Dewey Lane, Henry Frazier, Denver Riffe

BURKS MEMORIAL-Auldy Burks, George Justus, Howard Dotson, Cecil Justus, Willie Burks

WHITE STONE-Cecil Coleman, Charles B. Lester, Kenneth Cline, Grover Street

CHURCH CLERKS

ANTIOCH — Edward L. Cline P. O. Box 892, Welch, W. Va.
BETHANY — Arthur B. Riffe Rt. 3, Box 477, Falls Mills, Va.
BETHLEHEM — Carroll Belcher Ballard, W. Va.
ELKHORN — Donald Stiltner Rt. 1, Box 80, Welch, W. Va.
FRIENDSHIP — E. H. Buchannon Maben, W. Va.
GUYANDOTTE — Walter Smith Herndon, W. Va.
LITTLE BETHEL — Earnest French . . Rt. 66, Box 214, Daniels, W. Va.
LITTLE SAMARIAH — Elijah Roberts Avondale, W. Va.
LITTLE VINE — Calvin W. Belcher Superior, W. Va.
MYRTLE VALLEY — Jimmy Blankenship Big Sandy, W. Va.
NEW HOPE — Leonard Lester Rt. 1, Box 36, Herndon, W. Va.
NEW ZION* — Milburn Rinehart . . 200 Mulberry Ave., Beckley, W. Va.
PEN RIDGE — Basil Rotenberry Box 836, Keystone, W. Va.
SAND GAP — Ivan Phillips Box 103, Mullens, W. Va.
STONEY CREEK — James E. Taylor Rt. 2, Box 157, Delta, Pa.
SWEET HOME — Don Lane Rt. 5, Box 78-A, Princeton, W. Va.
BURKS MEMORIAL — Cloyd Bailey Hurley, Va.
WHITE STONE — Kenneth Cline Rt. 3, Box 520, Bassett, Va.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Name	Address
Bailey, Cloyd	Blackey, Va.
Baker, Andy	Jolo, W. Va.
Belcher, Alvin M.	P. O. Box 813, Welch, W. Va.
Belcher, Calvin W.	Superior, W. Va.
Belcher, Cecil	Rt. 3, Box 373, Bluefield, Va.
Belcher, Hillard	P. O. Box 935, Welch, W. Va.
Belcher, Morgan	Superior, W. Va.
Belcher, Paul	Herndon Heights, W. Va.
Burks, Clell	Panther, W. Va.
Burks, Harold	Rt. 1, Box 35, Welch, W. Va.
Cantrell, Acy	Rt. 1, Welch, W. Va.
Cecil, Archie	Corinne, W. Va.
Cline, Edward L.	Box 892, Welch, W. Va.
Coleman, Cecil	Rt. 3, Box 523, Bassett, Va.
Conn, Claude	Star Route, Hurley, Va.
Gibson, Dave	Pineville, W. Va.
Green, B. J.	Kimball, W. Va.
Green, H. L.	Kimball, W. Va.
Greer, Sherman	Ballard, W. Va.
Justice, Elbert	Panther, W. Va.
Justice, Jim	Hurley, Va.
Lane, H. A.	Superior, W. Va.
Lane, James	Big Sandy, W. Va.
Lane, Melvin	Mullens, W. Va.
Lane, Robert	Rt. 5, Box 12, Abingdon, Va.
Lester Alvis	Box 185, Twin Branch, W. Va.
Lester, Charles B.	723 Perdue St., Martinsville, Va.
Lester, Jack	Gilbert, W. Va.
Lester, William R.	Rt. 66, Box 283, Daniels, W. Va.
Lusk, Errie	Box 331, Alpoca, W. Va.
Marrs, Everett	Rt. 1, Box 63, Welch, W. Va.
McKinney, Wilbur	Box 13, Corinne, W. Va.
Phillips, Bryce	Saulsville, W. Va.
Rinehart, John J.	Rt. 87, Box 38, Shady Spring, W. Va.
Rinehart, V. D.	Ostego, W. Va.
Riffe, E. Graham	Rt. 1, Box 60, Iaeger, W. Va.
Riffe, Mervyn	Rt. 3, Box 477, Falls Mills, Va.
Rowe, A. W.	Box 64, Rt. 2, Princeton, W. Va.
Steele, Tarvin	Box 573, Northfork, W. Va.
Whitt, J. F.	Rt. 2, Box 144, Princeton, W. Va.
Whitt, John L.	Rt. 1, Box 217-A, Elkton, Md.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	Rec'd. by Ex. & Bap.	Restored	Rec'd. by Letter	Rec'd. by Recomm.	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Members	Contributions	Church Times
Antioch	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	83	100.00	4
Elkhorn	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	104	155.00	2
Friendship	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	58	104.00	1
Guyandotte	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	79	74.00	1
Little Bethel	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	53	78.00	2
Little Vine	5	0	2	0	0	0	1	202	130.00	3
Pen Ridge	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	91	78.00	1
Sand Gap	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	89	72.00	4
Bethlehem	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	50	20.00	1
New Zion	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	88	64.00	3
New Hope	4	0	5	0	0	2	0	43	20.00	2
Bethany	12	0	0	0	0	0	2	134	112.00	1
Myrtle Valley	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	87	70.00	4
Little Samariah	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	58	20.00	2
Stoney Creek	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	30	55.50	4
Sweet Home	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	36	91.00	3
Burks Memorial	12	0	0	10	0	0	0	36	65.05	4
White Stone	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	15	25.00	2
TOTALS	77	2	9	12	8	8	12	1336	1353.55	